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Have the People of the District of Columbia any rights  
that Congress is bound to respect?

## SPEECH

OF

# HALLET KILBOURN,

DELIVERED AT

LINCOLN HALL,

AT AN

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE AND CITIZENS IN  
FURTHERANCE OF THE MEASURE TO HOLD

### AN INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

*In Washington City, D. C., in 1872.*

WASHINGTON CITY:

EGGILL & WITHEROW, PRINTERS AND BOOKSELLERS.

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## SPEECH.

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### INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

At an adjourned meeting of the general committee and citizens of Washington, held at Lincoln Hall, on Saturday evening, January 15, 1870.

Mr. HALET KILBOURN introduced the following resolution, which was passed unanimously:

*"R solved,* That a committee of twenty be appointed by the chair to wait upon Congress and urge the passage of the bill granting a charter for the proposed International Exhibition, to be held at the national capital."

Mr. KILBOURN said that in submitting this resolution he wished to make a few remarks for the benefit of the committee to be appointed. He then said:

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: I appreciate the full force of the remarks made by our chairman this evening, when he said it was our duty to go before Congress and demand attention from the nation's legislators in furtherance of our efforts to accomplish the grand enterprise of having an International Exhibition at the national capital.

It is time that we raised the question, have the people of the District of Columbia any rights which Congress is bound to respect? As an humble citizen of this District, I am tired of dancing attendance about the halls of Congress begging for privileges which, as American citizens, it is our right to demand. [Applause.]

We go before the committee of Congress to which is assigned all matters pertaining to the welfare and prosperity of the 170,000 people of this District, and what is generally the result? While on all proper measures we can secure unanimous action in the committee-rooms, yet when members disperse into the halls of legislation their interest in District matters is generally dissipated, and our efforts come to naught.

When the committee on District matters is called to report business, but once or twice in a session, there is some excuse, perhaps, for not keeping up the earnestness manifested in the

committee-room; but the interests of no other 170,000 American tax-payers is neglected for any such reason. The real fact patent to all, why our requests are not properly considered by Congress is, that we have no political power, and no legislator is dependent upon our suffrages for his succession in office.

It is my candid opinion that had Noah resided in the District of Columbia, and it had been necessary to procure a charter from Congress before building the ark, the human race would have been extinguished with the Deluge. [Loud applause and laughter.]

Now, Mr. Chairman, let me state some of the reasons why I say the citizens of the District of Columbia have a right to demand of Congress the proper and prompt consideration and action upon measures presented for the promotion of our welfare. We pay a revenue tax to maintain and support the Government of the United States far in excess of the amount paid by several of the States, as the following exhibit shows:

*Revenue tax collected by the General Government since the enactment of the internal revenue law from the people of the following States and Territories, up to June 30, 1869.*

Minnesota .....	\$2,005,933 54
Kansas .....	1,537,314 95
Oregon .....	1,652,901 13
Nevada .....	1,550,675 40
Nebraska .....	555,377 15
From the eight Territories—New Mexico, Utah, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Dakota, Washington, and Arizona .....	2,457,519 19
District of Columbia .....	3,505,397 51

This tax collected from the people of the District of Columbia does not include the immense tax collected from the several thousand Government employees in Washington. The amount of their tax is deducted from their salaries by the Government disbursing agents.

By this statement, which is taken from the reports of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, it will be seen that the people of the District of Columbia have paid within about three per cent. as much revenue tax to support the general Government of the United States as was collected from the three great States of Kansas, Nebraska, and Nevada combined! [Cheers.] These three States have six Senators and three members of Congress to represent their interests in the councils of the nation, while the people of the District of Columbia are denied all representation.

The amount of the revenue tax paid to support the Government of the United States by the people of this District is **75**

per cent. greater than has been collected from the people of Minnesota, who have two Senators and two members of Congress to represent their interests. [Cheers.] It is more than 100 per cent. greater than the amount collected from the States of Kansas, Oregon, and Nevada, respectively. [Cheers.] It is over 15 per cent. greater than has been paid by the people of the State of Nebraska and the eight Territories of New Mexico, Utah, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Dakota, Washington, and Arizona combined. [Great applause.] Nebraska has her two Senators and a member of Congress, and the eight Territories are represented by eight delegates. The amount of the revenue tax collected from the people of this District is 600 per cent. more than has been collected from the people of the great State of Nebraska; and yet the people of Nebraska are fully protected by their Senators and members, who, in addition to representing the interests of their great State, have, in conjunction with the Representatives of the several States, exclusive jurisdiction over this District, while our inhabitants are entirely cut off from representation in the Government we pay so much to sustain. [Applause and cheers.]

The people of the gallant State of Vermont, who are represented by two illustrious Senators and three distinguished Representatives, have paid a revenue tax of \$4,609,397 49 to support and maintain the Government of the United States, while the people of this District have paid \$3,505,397 71, and are denied by Congress the necessary legislation to organize our industrial energies and promote the general welfare of our people. Florida, with two Senators and a Representative, paid but \$1,471,763 63 revenue tax; and Arkansas, with her two Senators and three Representatives, has paid but \$3,454,452 05. (The whole of these two States, however, were not within the jurisdiction of the law until after the termination of the rebellion.) [Long and continued applause.]

#### TROOPS FURNISHED.

From a message of Mayor Wallach at the close of the war it appears that the records of the War Department show that the total number of men received into the United States service and credited to this District from the commencement to the close of the rebellion was 16,872. Their numbers, when compared with the population of the District, sufficiently attest the loyal spirit of its people. No State, except Kansas, supplied so large a proportion of troops, whether computed by the actual number of

enlistments or by the different terms of service. The population of the District by the census of 1860 was 75,000. The number of troops furnished by the District of Columbia, computed on three years' standard of service, was 11,506, or one to less than every seven of its population; while in the States the proportion was about one in every ten of the population, based on the census of 1860. A direct war tax was levied upon the people of the United States, and the amount paid by the city of Washington was \$42,200. Claims to the amount of some \$475,000,000 have been presented by the several States for reimbursements for expenses incurred in furnishing troops to defend the Government of the United States, and several millions have already been refunded by the General Government, but not one dollar has been allowed to this District for her expenditures for the same purpose. [Sensation.]

#### RIVER AND HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

The amount expended by the Government for river and harbor improvements throughout the country during the past twenty years will, it is safe to assume, exceed \$50,000,000; yet within that period not one dollar has been expended for improving the river or harbor at the national capital. I have known of several instances in the West where many thousand dollars have been expended to improve small streams that now are not navigated by more than three flat-boats a year. [Laughter.] And why? The sole inducement for the expenditure of these appropriations is, that representatives in Congress have constituents whose votes they wish to secure for re-election. These representatives, having no constituents in the District of Columbia, consequently the noble Potomac and harbor at the national capital have been thus shamefully neglected for these twenty years or more. Yet the Government collects tonnage duties upon all vessels entering the District. In the meantime, the corporate authorities of Washington and Georgetown have found it necessary to appropriate several thousand dollars to keep the channel in navigable condition.

#### COMMON SCHOOLS.

There are 11,227 children in the public schools of the District, as per statement of School Superintendent Richards. Mr. Richards states that more than one half of the children in the public schools belong to families connected in some way with some branch of the Government, and their parents pay no taxes.

The parents of these children referred to by Superintendent Richards are the constituents of Senators and Representatives. They hold office in some of the Government departments, retaining their residence in the several States from which they were appointed; they pay no taxes towards the improvement of the District, but their children are educated at the expense of the District tax-payers; and yet Congress has persistently refused to donate any public lands for school purposes in the District of Columbia.

By the following exhibit, for which I am indebted to Hon. Joseph S. Wilson, Commissioner of the General Land Office, it will be seen with what lavish generosity the Government has encouraged the school system of the West.

*Statement showing the quantity of public lands estimated as granted by the United States to the several States containing public lands for the support of common schools, and reserved, to be hereafter appropriated for the same purpose in the organized Territories; the quantities in the Territories being estimated on the presumed basis that the grant will be extended to the Territories by congressional enactments, viz.*

States.	Acre.	States and Territories.	Acre.
Ohio .....	701,488	Kansas.....	2,891,309
Indiana .....	650,317	Nevada .....	3,985,428
Illinois.....	985,066	Nebraska .....	2,702,044
Missouri .....	1,199,439	Territories.	
Alabama .....	902,774	Washington .....	2,188,675
Mississippi .....	837,514	New Mexico .....	4,309,368
Louisiana .....	780,014	Utah .....	3,008,613
Michigan.....	1,067,397	Dakota .....	5,366,451
Arkansas.....	883,460	Colorado .....	3,715,555
Florida.....	908,503	Montana .....	5,112,035
Iowa.....	905,144	Arizona .....	4,050,350
Wisconsin.....	958,619	Idaho .....	3,068,231
California.....	6,749,324	Wyoming .....	3,180,281
Minnesota.....	2,969,990		_____
Oregon.....	3,329,706	Total.....	67,983,922

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, January 8, 1870.

Not one acre to the District of Columbia.

Compare the generous action of Congress in that exhibit towards the people of the States and Territories with their treatment of the school interest of this District, and it presents a condition of affairs which should cause the nation's legislators to blush at their neglect of the school interests of the national seat of Government; especially is our case aggravated, when the fact as stated by Superintendent Richards is considered in connection therewith.

Well has it been said that the District of Columbia, the ward of the nation, over which Congress has exclusive jurisdiction, is treated like a neglected step-child. [Laughter and applause.]

## AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE SCRIP.

But a few years ago Congress again distributed a large portion of its public lands among several of the States in the shape of agricultural scrip, as is shown in the following exhibit:

*Statement showing the names of the States entitled to Agricultural College scrip under act of July 2, 1862, and supplements, which have accepted the grant and received the scrip, with the quantity of scrip, viz:*

States.	Acres in Scrip.	States.	Acres in Scrip.
Vermont.....	150,000	Massachusetts.....	360,000
Connecticut.....	180,000	New Hampshire.....	150,000
Rhode Island.....	120,000	West Virginia .....	150,000
Kentucky .....	330,000	Ohio.....	630,000
Illinois .....	480,000	Maryland .....	210,000
New York .....	990,000	Indiana .....	390,000
Maine .....	210,000	Delaware.....	90,000
Pennsylvania.....	780,000	Tennessee.....	300,000
New Jersey .....	210,000	North Carolina.....	370,000
Total number of acres in scrip issued.....		<u>6,000,000</u>	

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, Jan. 8, 1870.

As usual, not an acre donated for the benefit of the District of Columbia. Having no voice in the councils of the nation, we are dependent entirely upon those whose whole attention is occupied by distant and distinct interests; and while they are unmindful of our interests in a great deal that pertains to our welfare and prosperity, yet no opportunity is missed to require our people to contribute their full share of the burdens for the maintenance and support of the Government.

## RAILROADS.

Congress has also, in its generous bounty, donated 185,890,-794.67 acres of public land to several States and corporations in aid of the construction of railroads throughout the West; yet at the capital of the nation no Government encouragement was ever rendered, and hence we have but one line leading to the North and one line South. For years we have applied to Congress to grant us charters for increased railroad facilities, but our efforts have been in vain. At the last session of Congress I had the honor, in company with Mayor Bowen, to visit Congress to procure the passage of an act giving citizens of Washington, in their corporate capacity, the privilege of subscribing \$1,500,000 to aid in bringing into our city two more lines of railroad. Congress did not take the time to act upon the matter, and has not to this day. We worked long, diligently, and well, but all to no purpose. And now some members of that body raise objections to Washington as the place to hold the International Exhibition because of its want of railroad facilities.

Deny us the privilege to expend our own means in building railroads, and then denounce us because we have not proper railroad facilities! "O, consistency, thou art a jewel!" [Great applause.]

Fellow-Citizens: It is not solely for the neglect of Congress in regard to donations of land and appropriations of means for the benefit of the nation's capital of which I complain; it is, among other things, the shameful disregard constantly manifested by that body to our petitions and appeals for relief from the old laws of Maryland, which were inherited in the cession of the District from that State. Our energies are bound down by laws enacted nearly a century ago, and not at all applicable to our present condition or the progress of the times. For instance, let me cite the old usury law of Maryland, which is in full force in this District to-day. It enacts that if money is loaned at a greater rate than six per cent. per annum, the lender is liable to forfeit both principal and interest. Money is the sinew of enterprise as well as of war, and unless it can be legally protected in its use in this District at the usual rates throughout the country, it will not flow in here.

We have asked again and again of Congress for the liberalizing of this law, and to give us such statutes as govern their own constituents; but so far our efforts have been unavailing. Yet the Government of the United States have offered seven and three tenths per cent. per annum interest to induce capital to come to her relief; but if a citizen of this District takes a fraction over six per cent., he is liable to forfeit all. With liberal laws regulating the use of money here, (if any regulation is necessary,) capital would seek investment; new enterprises would spring up in our midst; millions of dollars now invested by our citizens in Government securities would be unlocked and flow into the numerous channels of industrial enterprise developed by the renewed energies of our people.

We have for the past ten years prayed to Congress at every session to grant us a general act of incorporation, under which the combination of capital and energy could establish manufacturing and other productive and useful enterprises in our midst, all tending in their results to the prosperity and welfare of our people, at the same time, in their effect, promoting the attractions and comforts of the nation's capital, and largely enhancing the value of the Government property here.

We are not asking Congress to appropriate money to aid us in our enterprises; we only ask them to appropriate the brief time necessary to give us liberal legislation, and if they will but

do that much, we will, by our own energies, make the nation's capital, in its comforts, conveniences, and magnitude, worthy of being the seat of Government of our wide-spread Republic! [Great applause.]

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

The numerous constituents of Congress visiting the capital are no doubt shocked at the condition of the broad avenue leading from the Capitol to the President's House, and breathe curses deep, and often loud, at the citizens of Washington for not manifesting proper energy and putting it in good order. The anathemas hurled at the people of Washington for the shameful condition of that thoroughfare is not confined to visitors, but I have heard more than one member of Congress express the same denunciatory remarks. While the ignorance of visitors as to who has the entire control over the avenues of this city may excuse their indignation, yet how unjustifiable are such expressions from those who have exclusive jurisdiction in the premises, and are alone accountable for its shameful condition. I have been before Congress with several committees of our citizens asking for the authority to have Pennsylvania avenue paved, but never have been able to get a measure for that purpose through both Houses.

Let me state an incident right in point, recently related to me, which occurred some three or four years ago. The property-holders of Louisiana avenue, between Sixth and Seventh streets, on which fronts the Seaton House, disgusted at the horrid condition of the street, and knowing the hopelessness of getting authority from Congress, within the lifetime of human patience, resolved to take the responsibility of putting down a valuable pavement at their own expense, trusting that Congress (which has exclusive control of the avenue) would passively acquiesce; but no sooner had they commenced the proposed improvement than an officer of the Government prohibited their going on with the work until first acquiring authority from Congress! [Sensation.]

Messrs. Congressmen and your constituents visiting the national capital, give full vent to your curses and indignation at the condition of the avenues of Washington! The reason *why* they are so but illustrates the truth of the old saying, that "your curses, like chickens, come home to your roost." [Laughter and cheering.]

## WHO CONTROLS THE AVENUES.

That the question of jurisdiction over the avenues of Washington may be freshened to the minds of Congress and the country, I submit some extracts from a report made by the Hon. Samuel L. Southard, of New Jersey, late Vice President of the United States, to the second session of the Thirty-Third Congress:

"The plan of this city was formed by the public authorities; the dimensions of the streets determined by them, without interference by the inhabitants, or regard to their particular interests or convenience. It is a plan calculated for the magnificent capital of a great nation; but oppressive, from its very dimensions and arrangements, to the inhabitants, if its execution to any extent is to be thrown upon them. No people who anticipated the execution and subsequent support of it out of their own funds would ever have dreamed of forming such a plan. It would have been consummate folly. At that period neither the Government nor the proprietors contemplated that the whole, or even a large proportion, of the burden should be thrown upon the inhabitants of the city. This assertion is amply sustained by two considerations. In the first place, the contract between the Government and the owners of the land gave to the former a large extent of public lots, sufficient for all the edifices and improvements which its convenience could require; and, in addition thereto, one-half of all the building lots within the city limits; thus making the nation itself an equal owner of all the private property, and equally interested, for the benefit of this private property, in all the improvements which might be made. In the next place, the Government assumed, and, from that day to the present, has claimed and exercised, entire and absolute control over all the streets of the city, so that the inhabitants or the corporate authorities have no power either to enlarge or to diminish them, nor to open or close them; but the authority in these respects has been exercised at all times by Congress. It has even closed one of the streets and sold the ground which formed a part of it. It has also changed the situation of the streets and canal, retaining to itself the lots thereby thrown open, and the Supreme Court has sustained its authority in so doing. It could not have entered into the contemplation of any one at the date of the contract, nor can it now be regarded as either reasonable or just that the city should bear the expense of the streets, the property and control of which was so absolutely in the Government, and more than one-half of the land adjacent, which belonged to it, must be increased in value by their improvement.

"The committee are of opinion that the Government was bound by every principle of equal rights and justice to pay a proportion of the expense incurred upon this subject, equal to the amount of property which it held, and which was increased in

value and benefited by it; and this would have been greatly more than one-half.

"If the streets are its property, and to be regarded as altogether under its control, it is not easy to perceive why it should call upon or permit others to keep that property in order; and if the streets are to be regarded as for the joint convenience of the Government and the inhabitants, the expense of maintaining them should be joint, and in proportion to their respective interests. The early action of the Government and its agents is believed to have been in conformity with this principle, but the Government has not heretofore borne anything like its relative proportion. Its expenditures for this object have been comparatively small, and devoted almost entirely to the avenues and streets which are indispensably necessary for the convenience of Congress and the public offices. To exhibit the views of those who were intrusted by the nation with control and management of this subject, the committee add to this a report from President Washington to the commissioners, dated 14th December, 1795; a letter from President Jefferson to the commissioners, dated August 29, 1801; and a copy of a message from Mr. Jefferson to Congress, on the 11th of January, 1802. \* \* \* \*

"Congress has expended nothing except upon streets which adjoin the public squares, and even upon such has only made some pavements and walks and set out some trees along the squares, leaving the rest of the expense of even those streets to be borne by the city.

"While, on the other hand, the city has not only expended its money on the streets where even the population was scattered over an immense area, but especially opened and improved those leading to the national establishments at the navy yard and arsenal, and those leading to and around the public squares and reservations belonging to the nation, and thus, by its own means, enhanced the value of public property.

"The immense property of the Government which has been thus benefited has been at all time free from taxation, while the property of individuals adjoining it has been subjected to it. In several of the States of the Union, where the Government holds landed estate, it had paid taxes upon it, and these taxes have been expended for the ordinary municipal purposes of the places where the property was situated. In the city of Washington the case has been directly the reverse. Holding here more property than anywhere else, it has been subjected to no imposition of this kind. In the acts of incorporation, which gave the city a partial control and regulation over the streets, there is no exemption of the property of the Government from taxation, and it might, perhaps, be properly inferred that Congress did not intend that it should be exempted, but that it should be equally subject to those burdens which became necessary for the common benefit of the whole. But the corporate authorities have, with prudence and propriety, abstained from levying taxes upon it, and have laid the whole weight upon that part of the property which belongs to individuals, while the Government has been equally

participant in the benefits which have resulted from them. The assessments have been regularly made upon all, public and private alike, but the taxes have been collected only from the private holders of property. \* \* \* \* \*

"These streets are not *only oppressive* from their *size and extent* in their original formation, but they will, from the same causes, continue to be an *increasing source of expense* in their repairs. They must annually cost nearly double the amount of streets of the same length of moderate dimensions. The Government, which created this condition of things, ought not to be very deaf to the complaints of those upon whom such a burden has fallen. \* \*

"It has been stated before that the avenues and streets were transferred without any pecuniary compensation therefor being made by the Government.

"The reservations of ground for public use consist of seventeen entire squares, or large sections, in various parts of the city, and contain 541 acres, 1 rood, and 36 perches of land. On some of these the Capitol, President's House, and other public buildings have been erected. The rest of them are either open and unoccupied, or have been devoted to public uses, according to the discretion of Congress on the subject.

"For this large extent of land, equal to all its present and prospective wants, the Government paid *nominally* the sum of \$36,399 to the proprietors of the soil, but in reality nothing. This sum was not paid from the general treasury, nor one cent of it contributed by the people of the United States.

"The whole of it was taken out of the proceeds of the sales of building lots, which had also been secured by the Government in the contract with landholders. It thus appears that the people of the United States have paid *nothing* for all these public lots, nor for the property in the streets. They procured them, and now own them, *without the expenditure of a single dollar*. It is difficult to estimate the present value of the public grounds.

"In 1836 there had been received from the sale of building lots, which <i>cost the Government nothing</i> , .....	5741,921 48
And the value of the public reservation was.....	1,500,000 00
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\$2,211,921 48

Since that time hundreds of thousands of dollars have been received by the General Government from the further sales of lots originally donated to it, the proceeds of which have not been applied to the original purpose and contract with the citizens of this city.

Continuing, said report proceeds to state—

"They regard it (this District) as the child of the Union; as the creation of the Union for its own purposes. The design of the Constitution and its founders was to create a residence for the Government, where they should have absolute and unlimited

control; which should be regulated and governed by them, without the interference of partial interests in the States; which should be built up and sustained by their authority and resources; not dependent upon the will or resources of any State or local interest. If this had not been the design, it is not easy to comprehend either the principle which would prevent the Government from a liberal appropriation of national resources to accomplish the object, or the policy which would confine the city to the means possessed by the inhabitants for its improvement.

"In accomplishing their object, the Union undertook the guardianship of the District, deprived its inhabitants of the right of self-government and of the elective franchise, and made them dependent upon the will of the representatives of the States, to whom alone they can look for relief."

#### MARKET HOUSE.

Probably no one prominent object in the city commands so many opprobrious epithets and is so universally conceded a nuisance, alike by citizens and sojourners, as the group of old sheds fronting five hundred feet along Pennsylvania avenue, and styled the Centre market. Mark Twain, in one of his lectures, said that, in all his travels around the world, visiting objects of interest in Christian and heathen lands, his national feeling was constantly buoyed up by the recollection that at the national capital of his own proud Republic there existed a structure whose equal was not to be found on the face of the habitable globe—the Centre market house, on Pennsylvania avenue. [Long-continued laughter and cheers.]

Fellow-Citizens: In our effort to procure the charter for our proposed International Exhibition we have been met with the statement that our city is not in condition to invite visitors from the Old World here, special stress being laid upon the condition of Pennsylvania avenue, and its twin relic of Congressional orphanage, the market-house.

Having shown wherein the responsibility lies, as regards the avenue, indulge me a moment while I pay due respect to the market-house question.

These old dilapidated sheds are on one of the reservations donated to the General Government, and for years the city has had possession by suffrage, and has continually occupied it for market purposes.

Four years ago our city authorities proposed to erect an elegant structure on the premises, and present a building which would be a credit to Pennsylvania avenue, clean and commodious, for market purposes. Plans were adopted which would require the

expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars, and the money was appropriated by our city. After the erection of the foundation, at an expense of several thousand dollars, Congress suddenly realized the fact that the old white-washed landmark and guide-post for meandering representatives was about to disappear and a permanent structure erected in its place. Congressional wrath was aroused—a portion of “eminent domain” was about to be occupied by the citizens of the national capital, without first having received permission from the Congress of the United States! The wheels of general legislation were immediately stopped, and a matter relating to the District of Columbia received the time and attention of Congress. Was it a matter for the welfare of our people that passed so promptly? Let the following letter speak for itself:

“*HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.*  
“*WASHINGTON, D. C., June 25, 1866.*

“*Hon. J. P. USHER, Secretary of the Interior.*

“*SIR:* The House *unanimously* passed a joint resolution this morning authorizing you, among other things, to prevent the erection of any permanent building upon any square or reservation in this city.

“It was intended to hit the case of the market building now going up on Pennsylvania avenue and Eighth street.

“I hope you will give them notice to stop immediately.

“Very respectfully, *JOHN B. STEELE,*  
“*Chairman District Committee, H. R.*

Fellow-citizens: It is the neglect and indifference on the part of Congress towards our appeals for proper legislation which arouses the just indignation of our people. We ask no aid from the Government, but we demand justice. [Cheers.] I think I have said enough to convince the committee to be appointed to urge the passage of the Exhibition bill that we have some foundation on which to base our demand. We ask for no money to aid us in this measure, yet it is an enterprise of the greatest national importance. There is not an artisan in any township of our broad land but who would be benefited by such an exhibition of the industrial arts of the world as our people have taken the first steps to inaugurate. We only ask for the opportunity to invest our money in the enterprise. If our efforts in this matter shall fail by reason of the indifference or purposed neglect on the part of Congress, it will be another striking illustration of the abuse growing out of our political condition—“heavy taxation and no representation.” [Loud and continued applause

and cheers.] It seems to me that the incentive which induced the throwing of the tea overboard in Boston harbor was but a tithe in comparison to the inflictions under which the 170,000 people of this District suffer by the non-action of Congress in regard to such legislation as is needed for the working out of our salvation by our own industry and energies. [Applause.]

I think that with a united and persistent effort we can procure action in Congress. The representatives of the American people will be just, if we can only command their attention till they hear our case fully. Let them give us liberal legislation suitable to the times and our circumstances; let them break the shackles which bind our energies by repealing the old Maryland laws in force here.

The remarks made by Hon. Thomas B. Bryan, of Chicago, at our last meeting, wherein he stated that we needed but *rim* to push Washington forward with Chicago strides of prosperity, is evidence that he is unacquainted with the difficulties we labor under. Chicago has liberal, encouraging legislation. Washington has none. I assert, without fear of successful contradiction, that the people of Washington have displayed as much energy in the past five years, when is fully considered the tremendous disadvantages under which we labor, as the people of Chicago, and that we have not accomplished more is not for the want of energetic and enterprising citizens, but is owing wholly to the fact that the General Government denies to us the same privileges and rights of liberal legislation which is secured to the citizens of the several States through their several Legislatures. [Great applause and excitement.]

During Mr. Kilbourn's remarks the audience manifested the wildest enthusiasm by constantly interrupting him with cheering and applause for the able manner, great power, and eloquence with which he urged that the people of the District of Columbia had long enough borne "taxation without representation," and upon retiring he received round upon round of applause; many of the audience, upon the adjournment, going to the stage to congratulate him.



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